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Letter dated 14 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 65th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 9 November 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Basile **Ikouebe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Congo to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 14 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 65th meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 65th meeting held on 9 November 2006, adopted the following decision on the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of 7 September 2006 between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL of Agathon Rwasa:

The Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of 7 September 2006, between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL of Agathon Rwasa [PSC/PR/2 (LXV)], as well as of the presentation of the representative of the Facilitator, Ambassador Kinsley Mamabolo, Special Envoy of South Africa for the Great Lakes Region;

2. **Welcomes** the progress made in the peace process in Burundi, particularly the signing of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL of Agathon Rwasa, on 7 September 2006, in Dar-es-Salaam;

3. **Pays tribute** to the Regional Initiative, as well as to the Facilitator of the peace process, Mr. Charles Nqakula, Minister of Security and Safety of the Republic of South Africa, for their commitment and sustained efforts aimed at consolidating peace in Burundi;

4. **Commends** the Burundian parties for their political will and commitment to peace, which made the signing of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement possible;

5. **Welcomes** the measures already taken by the Chairperson of the Commission with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, particularly the designation of military officers to represent the AU in the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM), and **requests** him to speed up the deployment of AU military observers to work in the Joint Liaison Teams provided for by the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement;

6. **Takes note** of the provisions of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement requesting the African Union to establish a Special Task Force for the protection of the leaders and combatants of the Palipehutu-FNL of Agathon Rwasa, as well as their movement to the assembly areas and of the request by the Government of Burundi for the AU to take the necessary measures to ensure the security of leaders of the Palipehutu-FNL of Agathon Rwasa, as well as the safety of the corridors through which they will pass;

7. **Approves** the establishment of the Special Task Force as provided for in the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and **mandates** the Chairperson of the Commission to solicit the support of Member States to this effect. In this respect, Council **welcomes** the willingness expressed by South Africa to contribute to the establishment of the Special Task Force and **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, working in close collaboration with the Facilitator, to submit, as soon as possible, proposals on the modalities for the establishment of the Special Task Force. In the meantime, Council

requests the Chairperson of the Commission and the Facilitator, in consultation with the parties, to take appropriate measures to consolidate the progress made with the signing of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, including the immediate deployment by South Africa, of forces that shall assist in the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, as part of the envisaged Special Task Force;

8. **Urges** the parties to faithfully implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement. Council **encourages** the Government of Burundi to promote a policy of reconciliation, tolerance and respect of human rights, in order to consolidate the progress made so far in the peace process;

9. **Appeals** to the United Nations, the European Union and other partners of the African Union to provide the necessary support and assistance for the implementation of the Agreement. In this regard, the Council **welcomes** the commitment made by some partners to support the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of the combatants and the willingness of the United Nations to facilitate, through the Integrated United Nations Office in Burundi, the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement;

10. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to continue working closely with the Regional Initiative, the Facilitator, the United Nations and other partners for the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement;

11. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.